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Kim Jong Un pays homage to the great leader

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, visited the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay homage to Chairman Kim Jong Il on the occasion of the Day of the Shining Star, his birth anniversary.

Kim Jong Un entered the hall where the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il stand.

Baskets of flowers were laid at the statues in the name of the Supreme Leader and the WPK Central Committee.

The Supreme Leader, together with accompanying officials, paid

tribute to the great leaders at their statues.

Then he entered the hall where the Chairman lies in state.

He made a bow to Kim Jong Il, who dedicated his whole life to the prosperity of the country, happiness of the people and accomplishment of the revolutionary cause of Juche, as a token of his high respect and best wishes for

the immortality of the Chairman.

He was accompanied by Choe Ryong Hae, Ri Man Gon, Kim Yo Jong, Ri Yong Sik and other officials of the Organizational Leadership Department and the Information and Publicity Department of the WPK Central Committee.

Compiled from KCNA

CELEBRATION

National meeting highlights Chairman Kim Jong Il's birthday celebrations



A national meeting takes place at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium to celebrate the 77th birthday of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

A national meeting took place at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium in Pyongyang on February 15 to celebrate the 77th birth anniversary of Chairman Kim Jong Il.

It was attended by members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, leading Party and government officials, the chairman of a friendly party, leading officials of military organs, officials of Party and

military organs, ministries and national agencies, officers and men of the Korean People's Army and the Korean People's Internal Security Forces and teaching staff and students of Mangyongdae Revolutionary School and Kang Pan Sok Revolutionary School.

Also present were the congratulatory groups of overseas Koreans, overseas compatriots and the chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic

Front.

Invited there were resident diplomatic envoys, representatives of international organizations and military attaches and other foreigners in Pyongyang.

Choe Ryong Hae, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, in a keynote speech said that all Party members

and other people including service personnel are celebrating Chairman Kim Jong Il's 77th birth anniversary in splendour.

The history of his revolutionary leadership is the glorious one of the most prominent leader and great sage of the revolution who performed undying exploits for the country and humankind by leading the socialist cause of Juche along the road of victory, he said.

He lauded Kim Jong Il

as a brilliant thinker and theoretician who provided the powerful ideological weapon for the victorious advance of the cause of independence and socialism of the masses of the people, and an outstanding statesman who translated the Juche-based socialist ideal into brilliant reality by advancing the revolution and construction by local efforts and in a Korean style.

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CELEBRATION

Day of Shining Star celebrated at home and abroad



Crowds of people visit the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay tribute to Chairman Kim Jong Il.



People look on in the central photo exhibition dedicated to Chairman Kim Jong Il.



A contingent of new entrants salute in a joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations held to mark the Day of the Shining Star.



Visitors show keen interest in Korean stamps which are on display as part of the celebration events.

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He referred to the fact that the Chairman developed Korean-style socialism into a powerful one which is independent in politics, self-supporting in the economy and self-reliant in national defence.

He highly praised him as the eternal leader of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people who perfectly solved

the question of ensuring continuity of the revolutionary cause, thereby opening up the bright future of Korean socialism.

Kim Jong Il put forward the patriotic policy on national reunification, opened up an epochal phase for the country's independent reunification and made a great contribution to the development of the world socialist movement and

accomplishment of the cause of independence for humankind with his superb diplomatic savvy and energetic external activities, he said.

The revolutionary career and exploits of the Chairman, who provided the eternal foundations for the prosperity of the socialist country while striking out a new path holding aloft the red flag of the revolution all his life, will

shine forever, he noted.

Choe stressed the need to add eternal glory to the revolutionary exploits of Kim Jong Il and steadily and dynamically advance the cause of Korean socialism which has been put on a new high stage.

He said that the WPK and the DPRK government would make every effort to safeguard peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and

the President and the Chairman and their beaming images in Pyongyang and the provinces to pay homage to the great leaders.

Members of the UN resident coordinator's office and country offices of UNDP, UNICEF and other international organizations climbed up Mansu Hill in Pyongyang to lay baskets of flowers at the statues of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il and the family of Ya. T. Nobichenko, the late Russian internationalist, the family of Kim Sun Ok who is related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the Switzerland-Korea Committee and other families abroad, foreign organizations and personages sent baskets of flowers to the statues.

The WPK Central Committee hosted a banquet.

It was attended by members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, leading Party and government officials, the chairman of a friendly party, officials of ministries, national agencies, military organs and city-level institutions and persons of merit.

Also present there were overseas compatriots, including the congratulatory groups of Koreans in Japan and the General Association of Koreans in China for celebrating the Day of the Shining Star also visited the palace to pay tribute to him.

Working people, youth, schoolchildren and service personnel visited the statues of

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PHOTOS BY KCNA

PHOTO BY KCNA

strengthen solidarity and cooperation with socialist countries and develop relations with all countries that are friendly to the DPRK under the ideals of independence, peace and friendship.

Similar meetings also took place in provinces, cities, counties and industrial complexes on the same day.

Compiled from KCNA

FROM PAGE 2

and the chief of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front. Resident diplomatic envoys, representatives of international organizations, military attaches and their spouses and other foreigners were invited there.

The 23rd Kimjongilia Festival and the flower exhibitions in provinces were the sea of flowers in praise of the great man.

Looking round the flower festival and exhibitions, visitors took immense pride in having acclaimed the peerlessly great man revered by the whole world as the eternal sun.

Visitors to the provincial photo shows recollect the revolutionary career of the Chairman who devoted his all to usher in a new era of national prosperity.

A joint national meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations took place in Pyongyang on February 16.

There was a KCU admission ceremony at the meeting. On the same day many schoolchildren across the country were admitted to the KCU, taking an oath to fully prepare themselves to become reliable pillars of socialist Korea.

The Mansudae Art Troupe, the National Folk Art Troupe, the Samjiyon Orchestra and the National Symphony Orchestra gave a music and dance performance, dance suite and concerts respectively.

Provincial art troupes also gave performances.

Similar performances were given and sports games held at

industrial establishments and on farms to add to the festive mood.

The Mangyongdae Amusement Park, the Munsu Water Park, the Central Zoo, the Natural History Museum and other cultural and leisure centres were crowded with visitors who came to enjoy the holiday.

Dancing parties of youth and students took place on February 16 across the country.

The State Stamp Bureau issued a new commemorative sheetlet.

Members of the Pyongyang Mission of the Anti-imperialist National Democratic Front visited the 23rd Kimjongilia Festival, the military attaches corps in Pyongyang Kim Il Sung University and officials in charge of culture and friendship of foreign embassies Pyongyang Teachers Training College on the same occasion.

Celebratory events also took place in different countries.

The Cambodian King and Great Queen and the general chairwoman of the Central Directive Council of the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle sent large baskets of flowers to the DPRK embassies in Phnom Penh and Jakarta.

Meetings, photo and book exhibitions, film shows and other celebration events were held in China, Russia, Myanmar, Bulgaria, Romania, the UK, Mexico and other countries.

Speakers at the events highly praised Chairman Kim Jong Il for having devoted his all to provide his people with a better and happier life.



The 23rd Kimjongilia Festival is held on a larger scale in the run-up to the Day of the Shining Star.

They also expressed the belief that the Korean people would achieve the cause of a powerful socialist country building and the country's reunification without fail under the leadership of Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un.

Many newspapers and websites throughout the world ran special features, carrying the smiling images and photos of Chairman Kim Jong Il.



PHOTOS BY PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Visitors are told about the immortal flower named after Chairman Kim Jong Il.

By Jong Sun Bok PT



A Korean art troupe from Japan gives a music and dance performance at the Pyongyang Grand Theatre.



Entertainers of the Samjiyon Orchestra perform in Pyongyang.



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

Women look on in a national art exhibition devoted to pine that is the national tree of the DPRK.



KIM YONG CHAN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A synchronized swimming demonstration is given at the Changgwang Health Complex.



CHOE MI GYONG / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

A scene from the Paektusan Prize international figure skating festival.

LEADING ARTICLE

Socialist Korea imbued with one ideology

It has been 45 years since the Workers' Party of Korea declared the programme of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism on February 19 1974.

Over the past decades the WPK has implemented the programme at a high level by working hard to imbue the whole society with Kimilsungism and laid solid foundations for the building of a powerful nation and its sustainable development.

Kimilsungism is an integrated Juche system of idea, theory and method on the revolution and construction expounded by the Juche idea.

In the DPRK all members of society try to arm themselves with the Juche idea, the ideological basis of Kimilsungism, and apply it to their work and life.

The Juche idea put forward man as master of everything and a powerful being who decides everything and scientifically confirmed that man is the most precious and powerful being in the world for the first time in the history of the development of human ideology, while giving correct solutions to all problems that arise in carving out the destiny of the people.

As the people-centred philosophical principle and systems and contents based on

it are all explained in a popular style of writing, the Juche idea has become a popular ideology everyone easily understands and accepts as their own.

Today the Korean people regard the idea as the creed of their life and cherish it as the single guideline for their thinking and practical activities.

As all members of society live and work as required by the Juche idea, the ideological unity of the entire society has steadily been consolidated and its might constantly grows stronger.

The whole society can be claimed to have completely been infused with a single idea only when all people are firmly armed with one ideology and conduct practical activities dynamically to meet the requirements of that ideology.

In this context, a country whose society is fully imbued with one idea means the one in which all members of society become faithful followers of the guiding ideology and are fully ready to implement it resolutely.

The Korean people solve all problems arising in socialist construction strictly from the Juche-oriented viewpoint and attitude, holding up high the slogan "Let us meet the requirements of Juche in

ideology, technology and culture!" This showcases the society of the DPRK which has been infused with the Juche idea.

The Juche idea is the starting point of Party and state activities in socialist Korea, the basis of the organizational and ideological consolidation of the

Party and the buildup of overall state power, and a powerful ideological weapon with which to lift the dignity and value of people to the top level.

Therefore, in socialist Korea today all members of society are firmly armed with the Juche idea and view and approach all problems from the Juche-based

point of view and attitude.

Socialist Korea will surely win final victory in its cause as the whole society is imbued with one ideology with the Juche idea as the cornerstone.

Kim Ryong Jin, PhD and associate professor at Kim Il Sung University



RI KWANG SONG / PICTORIAL KOREA

Paraders march past holding the flag of the Workers' Party of Korea. The float bears slogan "Modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism!"

HYMN

Song inspires patriotic sentiment and further efforts

Song *Our National Flag* is now widely sung among the Korean people.

They say it vividly portrays the thought and feelings of all.

"The song encapsulates the history of our country which won victories and added glory to its name overcoming all hardships along with the national flag. It represents everything, solemnity, excitement and infinite pride, we feel whenever we look up to the national flag," they most often say.

It has been over 70 years since the DPRK was founded and the national flag flew in the sky over Korea for the first time. In the period the Korean people witnessed a sea change in their destiny and the country which was eclipsed even on the world map is soaring up to a socialist power.

In the stirring period the Korean people took up their position as masters of the state and society and the DPRK demonstrated its might as a country independent, self-sufficient and self-reliant in defence, while the national flag fluttered as the banner of victory and glory.

The song sings highly of all of

them, saying that the powerful flutter of the flag is expressive of the breathing of the motherland, the flag which is as precious as life is taking upon the destiny of the people and the brilliant star that is emblazoned on the flag, which is pulsating with the soul and spirit of this land, shines brightly with victory.

The Korean sportspeople hardly control tears of excitement and joy welling up whenever they look up to the national flag as they stand on the winners' podium at international competitions.

Because they know well that they are honourable as they have their country.

Before the country's liberation from Japanese military rule their forefathers writhed in grief and shame as they had to ride on the podium bearing the Japanese flag though they won international events.

It is too natural that they love the national flag which put an end to the history of national sufferings and adds to the pride and dignity of its sportspeople.

"I think the song *Our National Flag* fully reflects my feelings. Singing this song, I will fly our flag in the sky over the world

higher and more proudly," says Rim Jong Sim, weightlifter at Kigwancha who is Labour Hero, People's Athlete and Olympic gold medallist.

The song greatly inspires all working people to achieve unprecedented successes in their jobs.

After its production the words and music of the song have been put up in all workplaces and the song comes out of speakers in all workplaces every day.

Workers of the Kumsong Tractor Factory say that hearing the song, they feel as if it sings of the feats of them who produced a new type of tractors, and get excited, expressing their resolve to work harder for the prosperity of the country.

"The song mirrors the golden ears of rice and other cereals we farmers cultivate on the field and the looks of our sub-workteam members threshing them with great joy," says Om Hwa Suk, sub-workteam leader of the Poman Cooperative Farm of Sohung County, North Hwanghae Province. "It encourages us to reap a rich harvest by putting our heart and soul into farming."

By Ri Sang Il PT

RESPONSE

Eternal banner for humankind

The international community highly praises Chairman Kim Jong Il, who formulated the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il Sung as Kimilsungism and put forward the programme of imbuing the whole society with a single idea, and Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un who carries on the immortal ideological and theoretical achievements of the peerlessly great men.

Now the Korean people commemorates the 45th anniversary of the proclamation of the programme of modelling the whole society on Kimilsungism by Chairman Kim Jong Il, said the head of the Juche idea study group of Lebanon.

The Chairman enriched the President's revolutionary idea and formulated it as Kimilsungism through energetic ideological and theoretical activities, he noted.

Kim Jong Il wisely led the Korean people to carry through the revolutionary cause of Juche and achieve brilliant successes in all fields holding up high the banner of Kimilsungism, he said. "The path to be followed by humankind was brightly illuminated by Kimilsungism."

The Nigerian national committee for the study of Kimilsungism-Kimjongilism posted an article on its website. It said the Juche idea is recognized as the guiding ideology for the cause of independence for humankind and is inconceivable apart from leader Kim Jong Il as well as its founder President Kim Il Sung.

Chairman Kim Jong Il, in his classic work published on February 19 1974, clarified that the revolutionary idea of President Kim Il Sung is an integrated Juche system of idea, theory and method and declared that the Juche idea, the guiding ideology in the era of independence, is an original idea which can be called only in combination with the name of the President, the article added.

A professor at London University said Chairman Kim Jong Il's publication of the work *On Some Immediate Tasks of Party Ideological Work for Modelling the Whole Society on Kimilsungism* was an event of great significance in the history of the Korean Party and revolution.

Compiled from KCNA

FERTILIZER

Complex pushes technical upgrade to boost production

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex is boosting fertilizer production every day.

In recent years, the complex upgraded overall production processes to open up bright prospects for increasing fertilizer production.

It automated steam, water and air supply systems in the gas generating line, the first process in fertilizer production. The cycle period of the process has been extended remarkably and the automatic coal feeders newly installed in generators have made it possible to boost the production of semiwater gas, the basic raw material for fertilizer.

It carried out the overhaul and upgrading of the fertilizer production process in a short period, thus making a breakthrough for expanding fertilizer production. Concentrated repairs were made on gas generators, washing towers and conveying and heating processes and some other processes were remodelled in a rational way. Innovative methods were introduced into making castings needed for overhaul, thereby reducing the casting time from ten days

to two hours and the material consumption to a 20th. As a result, the waste gas from ammonia synthesis has come to be recycled to build up the capacity for increasing Juche fertilizer production, while the heated gas from generators has been used for steam production to save hundreds of tons of fuel a day. In addition, a new conveyor was installed in the rod coal drying process, thus raising productivity 1.2 times while saving much manpower and electricity. At the same time, the informatization level of the operating system of generators was further improved.

In particular, the complex set up an energy-saving steam production process capable of recycling, which is drawing the attention of experts. Consisting of three large-capacity circulating fluidized bed boilers, a fuel depot and a dust-collecting system, the process ensures combustion efficiency at over 98 percent by using gas and other industrial waste from production and turns out well over a hundred tons of steam an hour. The establishment of this modern production process

has enabled the complex to produce and provide itself with high-pressure steam needed for fertilizer production, recycle hundreds of thousands of tons of industrial waste into efficient fuel and make remarkable progress in terms of environmental protection.

The complex also introduced lots of scientific and technological achievements into production. It installed efficient conveying facilities in the processes of drying raw materials and reprocessing waste from generators to markedly enhance productivity while saving much labour, and rationally refashioned the rod coal moulding machine.

As it expands fertilizer production, the complex presses ahead with the laying of material foundations in order to achieve phased targets in establishing the C1 chemical industry. The construction of its substructure is proceeding at a fast pace.

So far this year, it has produced tens of thousands of tons of more fertilizer than the same period of last year.

By Choe Kwang Jin PT



The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex boosts fertilizer production by technically upgrading overall production processes.

BATTERY

Taedonggang charges itself with self-reliance

The Taedonggang Battery Factory is a leading player in the nationwide drive for attaining self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

While hitting its economic production target every year, the factory renovated the whole production line into an independent process relying on locally-available materials 100 percent by exploiting its material and technical potentials.

In the past, it was partly reliant on imported raw materials for some reasons.

With such an insecure material supply system, it was impossible for the factory to expect a sustainable production growth

and pursue its independent business strategy.

"In order to open up the prospects of revitalization of production, we had to free ourselves from dependence on others," said the manager.

Last year, they made a significant stride towards full self-reliance by solving the problems of raw materials and technology.

A typical achievement was the establishment of the plastic battery casing production process using locally-produced polypropylene as the raw material. Technicians succeeded in developing several additives that help

increase the impact strength of local polypropylene after hundreds of experiments and provided a scientific and technological guarantee for boosting the casing production by completely relying on domestic materials.

They also developed the control program for the plastic casing injector which could not be used due to malfunction until two years ago, thereby ensuring the normal operation of the machine.

In addition, they introduced dozens of valuable technical innovation plans including those for the establishment of antimony production process

PHARMACY

Koryo medicine production increases



SONG YONG SOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES

The Kanggye Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory turns out a variety of Koryo medicines.

The Kanggye Koryo Medicine Pharmaceutical Factory which has modernized its production processes is working to reenergize production by relying on local materials.

Its products are popular as tonics that are also effective in treatment, prevention and rehabilitation. Especially, as their ingredients are natural medicinal materials collected in secluded mountain areas free from pollution, their quality is guaranteed at a high level.

Last year, the factory established modern pharmaceutical production lines to increase the output of traditional medicines in order to satisfy growing demands.

It introduced new PLC extraction facilities including supercritical fluid and pressure reflux extractors into the Koryo medicine extraction process. The supercritical fluid extractor is efficient in separating unstable substances in abnormal conditions as it carries out distillation and extraction at the same time without air contact and irradiation. The factory also installed a vacuum concentrator equipped with a new type of heating device in a production process to increase the effective content of traditional medicinal materials.

These processes turn out over 50 kinds of Koryo medicines

using concentrated ores and the production of cathode additives from locally-abundant pulp waste liquor and a certain mineral.

Factory officials describe the resources and possibilities tapped through the mass technical innovation campaign as an important factor that guarantees the sustainable revitalization of production.

The factory reaps enormous benefits through recycling. It installed new facilities for recycling lead from waste batteries to annually recycle hundreds of tons of lead, which they say enables them

including an injection that is as efficacious as Taxol.

The factory also uses marine products to make chitosan solution which is regarded as one of the six nutrients for health and longevity.

While upgrading production processes, it refurbished all the production areas in line with the GMP standards last year.

"We could revitalize business activities last year as we further upgraded air, water and waste water purification processes and improved germ- and dust-free hygienic standards of overall production lines," said manager Kim Kwang Song.

All the production and management activities including the storage of raw materials and products and quality inspection are conducted on a scientific basis in conformity with the WHO's medicine production and quality control standards.

The factory's quality verification system not only identifies substandard drugs but analyses causes and works out countermeasures, so the system is planned to be introduced to other Koryo medicine manufacturers across the country.

It directs efforts to research projects for developing efficacious medicines, while increasing production.

By Yun Kyong Il PT

to boost battery production 1.5 times. It also reuses waste separators which were dumped previously.

It replaced the wet dust arrestor of the resistance furnace with a more efficient dry one, which markedly raised the actual extraction rate of lead in the smelting process while improving the condition and environment of production. Besides, it has explored a great deal of resources and possibilities to increase production and save materials.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT

EDUCATION

University works to apply advanced educational tools

Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry channels big efforts into improving the contents and methods of education.

On the basis of full-scale literature search for data on the world's advanced technological achievements in the light industry sector, lecturers and researchers of the university have pushed an undertaking for systematizing good development successes to introduce them into teaching, applying the

correlation between majors to teaching and pioneering new cross-disciplinary subjects.

When you get access to the educational network of the university, you can review the contents of desired lectures any time and chat with each other, and it also helps lecturers have a correct understanding of the brushup course of students in the network.

Lecturers in the foreign language department and researchers of the university

developed a program by using a vocal processing technique, which is very beneficial to students' capacity building.

According to a developer, the program is designed to notify defects and display marks on the basis of standard pronunciation and intonation.

Lecturers of the garment designing science department developed a program, with which users can make a life-sized virtual human body with the help of an individual image data taken through smartphone or camera and try a piece of clothes designed by students on it.

Other faculties and departments also developed programs based on the virtual reality technology and applied them to teaching, so as to make it possible for students to experience in lessons what they could conduct only in production sites.

"We will steadily update teaching methods by making the most of the VR technology in the future," said Rim So Yon, lecturer at the garment designing science department.

By Pang Un Ju PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Students work in a well-equipped lab at Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry.

FOODSTUFF

Production picks up to meet growing demand

Foodstuff factories in Pyongyang are bringing about a drastic turn in production from the beginning of the year.

The Taedonggang Foodstuff Factory has overfulfilled its daily production plan by operating all processes at full capacity based on last year's upgrading of the production line of Pyongyang soju, or Pyongyang liquor. At present, it is striving to increase production while stepping up the project for further modernizing the production line.

The Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory is working to secure raw materials of grain chips and other popular products, which were highly appreciated at the 29th National Exhibition of Consumer Goods last year, raise the quality of its products and increase their range. It has recently developed a variety of new products by using potato farina, corn starch and strawberry flavour and is endeavouring to increase their output.

The Pyongyang Children's Foodstuff Factory, which upgraded the raw material conveying system and the selection process and established a prompt product analysis system, produces various kinds

of nourishing foods, drinks and jellies with soybean as the main ingredient. Its instant glutinous rice-cake powder which was developed last year is popular with consumers for convenience. Technicians of the factory are working on the research to develop and introduce such new products as fruit-rice powder and functional foods for old persons, trademark and packaging.

The Pyongyang Wheat Flour Processing Factory produces over a dozen kinds of new products by relying on domestic raw and other materials, including chopped noodles, lysine cake, peptide cake and bread, and yeast cake. The peptide cake was highly appreciated at the 29th National Exhibition of Consumer Goods. Technicians of the factory who developed a variety of additives and yeasts are preparing to fully automate the twist production process by refashioning mixing and twisting devices.

Besides, the Kyongryon Aeguk Soda Pop Factory, Pyongyang Brewery, Pyongyang Foodstuff Packing Materials Factory and many other foodstuff factories in Pyongyang have made great progress in the

efforts to modernize production processes, develop famous products by using domestic raw and other materials and improve quality.

"Growing public demand is the stimulus to the development of new products," said Jong Chang Hak, an official of the Pyongyang Municipal Foodstuff Complex.

By Kim Ryong Jin PT

ONLINE

Site popular among music lovers

The Maehok website run by the Hana Music Information Centre is popular with users.

Situated on the banks of the Taedong River in Pyongyang, it is a comprehensive art information service base in the form of music e-library.

A large amount of new data have recently been added to the website.

Visitors can see a variety of data related to the arts including music, dance, drama, art performance and fine arts, as well as films, in the form of book, audio, video

VIRTUES

Retailer renders outreach support to branch schools

Teaching environment has been improved at Yondae and Hongchon branches of Ryongsan Primary School in Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang.

The branch schools were built for a small number of children in farm villages some five kilometres away from the primary school, but they are now provided with a computer network and modern educational facilities like the principal school.

This is unthinkable apart from the passionate devotion rendered by the employees of the Mangyongdae Shop, a supporter of the schools.

Ryongsan Primary School established a computer network and updated its educational facilities at the beginning of last year with dynamic efforts being made at schools across the country to improve teaching content and establish teaching methods by relying on modern science and technology.

It left a big gap in the scholarly performance between the pupils of the principal and branch schools, and some competitive boys and girls of the branch schools walked several kilometres to study at the well-

By Ri Sung Ik PT



RYANG KUM CHOL / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Employees from the Mangyongdae Shop learn about educational conditions at Ryongsan Primary School in an outreach effort.

thousands.

Clients can enjoy film music and films with the help of the 5.1 and other acoustic systems in the centre's multi-channel appreciation room built in line with the scientific acoustic design.

"The Maehok website is very helpful to practising what we have learned in lectures and improving our skills," said Yun Chol Hak, student of Kim Won Gyun University of Music. "In particular, the data related to the songs and instrumental music performed by world-famous artistes help us polish up our acting and representing level through the comparative research into history."

By Jong Chol PT

ISRAEL

Anti-Zionism mounts as Israel seeks more self-interest

Last year the relationship between Palestine and Israel was incomparably tenser than before due to Israel's indiscriminate crackdown on Palestinians and its extremist ambition for territorial expansion.

Israel declared Jerusalem, called al-Quds in Arabic, as its capital and demanded other countries move their embassies in Tel Aviv there. It also cooked up a unified Jerusalem law in a bid to take complete control over the city. It put the whole of Jerusalem under its control in order to keep the Palestinians from founding an independent state with Jerusalem as their capital and thwart the two states solution recognized by the international community.

Not content with this, Israel adopted the Jewish national state law stipulating the whole territory under its occupation as the land of the Jewish state to deny the right to self-determination of Arabs living in the occupied territories. It also defined Hebrew as its official language to give formal position to the Arabic language.

After laying the legal and institutional framework for territorial occupation, it intensified oppression on the Palestinians while stubbornly trying to expand Jewish

settlements. In December last year alone, the authorities approved a plan on additionally building some 2,190 dwellings in the Jewish settlements in the West Bank. The Israeli troops injured 14 by opening fire on Palestinian demonstrators in a marine boundary area in the north of the Gaza Strip.

Israel decided to stop importing fruits and vegetables grown by the Palestinians from the West Bank.

Experts commented that it is aimed at stifling the Palestinians and realizing its wild ambition for territorial expansion by throwing a political and economic blockade around Palestine.

But everything will not go as Israel wishes.

It is evidenced by the ever-growing atmosphere against Israel and the voice of support for and encouragement to Palestine from the international community.

The UN Secretary-General, in an event held on the occasion of the day of world solidarity with the Palestinian people, reaffirmed that the UN's support for the Palestinians is unshakeable.

At a most recent meeting, the Turkish president told the Israeli prime minister that he is

the "mouthpiece of oppressors who incites state-sponsored terrorism".

The Turkish foreign minister also denounced the Israeli prime minister as a "cold-blooded murderer".

The Egyptian president, during a recent foreign tour, clarified once again his support for the legitimate right of Palestinians to found an independent state, underscoring the importance of strengthening international efforts to put an end to the dispute between Palestine and Israel based on the two states solution and Arab peace initiative and achieve just lasting peace.

Austria-based Chinese representative of the UN office and other international organizations supported the founding of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, saying China extends solidarity to the just cause of the Palestinian people to regain the legitimate right of the nation.

If Israel continues to cling to the moves for wrecking regional peace and stability against the demand of the international community, it will only face international isolation.

By Song Jong Ho PT

S. KOREA

Public protest flares against defence deal

The US and south Korea concluded the tenth special agreement on defence cost sharing on February 10.

The conclusion has made it possible for the US troops in south Korea to receive US\$ 918.9 million more for their upkeep, or 8.2 percent rise over last year, leaving the door open for the continuous increase of upkeep by reducing the term of validity from five years to one.

Local organizations of all social strata, media outlets and experts demand the government immediately renegotiate the agreement, describing it as a humiliating deal made according to the unjust demand of the US and a bargain which increased defence sharing much more than that in the period of the conservative regime.

Not only the Democratic Peace Party and the Justice Party but also such conservative oppositions as the Liberal Korea Party and Bareunmirae Party censure the Moon Jae In government, saying south Korea will have to shoulder the heavy burden of sharing

increment every year as the expiry of the agreement is one year and this showcases the diplomatic incompetence of the government.

Bewildered by the protest, the foreign ministry and the ruling party are begging for cooperation in parliamentary approval while defending themselves, saying that they did their best to make an agreement which can convince the people and the national assembly of the reason and that the US committed itself to firm defence of south Korea by conceding the previous level of increment demand.

As the local media reported that the US troops have profited hundreds of billions of won from the defence cost sharing interest since 2002, they lend money at interest as the annual upkeep is too much for them to use in a year.

Facts reveal once again the true colours of the US which seeks its own profit while talking about "friendly nation" and "close ally".

By Min Chol PT

LKP candidates pretend sympathy to jailed Park

Candidates for the top post of the Liberal Korea Party of south Korea, who have been involved in a brawl in the run-up to the party convention, are now clamouring in one voice for the release of jailed Park Geun Hye.

Hwang Kyo An said that he had made up his mind to help the former president as much as possible when she was going through hardships for impeachment and that it is wrong to regard everything the former government did as the monopolization of government and evil deeds.

Kim Jin Thae, Sim Jae Chol and other candidates are competitively emphasizing their "political connection" with Park as they frequent the staging areas of the conservatives including Kumi of North Kyongsang Province, the birthplace of dictator Park Chung Hee.

Even Hong Jun Phy, who has been the butt of condemnation of supporters of Park Geun Hye as he forcibly expelled her from the party when he was its representative, said that Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo had not been detained as long as Park Geun Hye and that back in Youido, he would tour all parts of south Korea to launch an all-people resistance for her

release.

Although they declared their severance from her when she was given a stern judgment by the public and was going to be buried in the grave of history, they are making a hubbub for her release in an attempt to win favour with her. They are reminiscent of greedy hyenas in an animal film.

Meanwhile, Park Geun Hye exercises her influence over the scramble for party power as she is engaged in "politics in prison" to seize political power while branding the Moon Jae In government as a "regime of Juche idea followers" and "socialist regime".

As to this, local media and experts comment that "in-jail politics" of Park Geun Hye is affecting the electioneering for the post of LKP representative and Park who is on her political deathbed due to impeachment is showing a sign of revival on the occasion of the LKP convention.

Such moves of the conservative forces are a challenge to public sentiment and a declaration of war on the people, which are geared to reversing the gains of the candlelight revolution and bringing back the dark age.

By Choe Yong Nam PT

JAPAN

Whale hunter still defiant to international calls

The International Whaling Commission introduced a ban on commercial whaling in 1986 with an eye to protecting cetacean resources. Japan, however, was hell-bent on whale hunting in defiance of the ban.

The enraged international community raised critical voices against Japan, denouncing it as a "country that sets even whale crying".

Under international pressure, Japan was compelled to declare that it would refrain from commercial whaling, but it persisted in whale hunt under the signboard of "scientific research".

Its whale haul in the waters off the South Pole and the northern Pacific Ocean amounted to 850 on an annual average. Given that only some whales are internationally allowed to be caught for research purposes, it was obvious to everyone that Japan's whaling was for commercial purposes.

According to an IWC report, Japan hunted more than 330 whales in the Antarctic sea in three months from December late 2017 to February last year and over 120 of them were pregnant and 128 calves.

While sticking to wholesale whale butchery, Japan has made a persistent bid to perfect its institutional mechanism for legitimizing its whaling.

In 2014, it expressed its intention in the international arena to resume commercial whaling, only to be given a flat refusal. Instead of drawing a lesson, it adopted in 2017 a law defining whaling for scientific research as its state duty, and decided again in 2018 to propose the resumption of commercial whaling to the IWC convention. Japan presented the proposal at the convention held in Brazil in September last year, claiming the surveys conducted so far confirmed that minke and other whales remarkably grew in number. But the motion was

outvoted once again.

Much annoyed by the rejection, Japan betrayed its dissatisfaction as it said it would be compelled to consider all possible options and would re-examine the contribution to the organization, and even hinted at its intention to quit.

Late last year, it declared its withdrawal from the IWC and announced that it would resume commercial whaling in July this year.

The declaration was a premeditated proclamation and the revelation of its selfish intention to openly pursue whale hunt despite bitter opposition from the international community.

The shameless whale butcher will be subjected to louder curse and denunciation of the world people as it does not hesitate to destroy the ecological environment of the earth, only chasing its selfish interests.

By Om Ryong PT

CELEBRATION

Nation enjoys folk holiday viewing the first full moon

The Korean people enjoyed *Jongwoldaeborum* which is the nation's folk holiday celebrating the fifteenth day of the first month by the lunar calendar, or the First Full Moon Day.

Art performances were given at theatres in Pyongyang, giving joy and optimism to the citizens.

Revolutionary drama *Three Pretenders* was performed at the National Theatre and acrobatic and magic performances were given at the Pyongyang Circus Theatre and the Magic Theatre of the National Acrobatic Troupe.

Schoolchildren played folk games like kite-flying,

shuttlecock kicking and top spinning in various places of Pyongyang, including Kim Il Sung Square and plazas of the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the Arch of Triumph, adding colours to the holiday mood.

In the households family members and neighbours got together and spent the holiday sharing specially prepared national foods and playing folk games.

Others went out to Okryu and Chongnyu restaurants, Changgwang food alley and other restaurants to enjoy the holiday having such national dishes as Pyongyang cold noodles,

sweet rice dish and sinsollo.

Public catering establishments including restaurants on the Folk Street of Sariwon, North Hwanghae Province and Sinhung Restaurant in Hamhung, South Hamgyong Province pleased the visitors by serving special foods.

When the dark set in, many people were seen viewing the first full moon of the year by the lunar calendar in different scenic spots across the country, including on Moran Hill and the Taedong River banks.

Compiled from KCNA



PHOTOS BY HAN KWANG MYONG AND RI CHUNG SONG / RODONG SINMUN

Family members living in a high-rise apartment building on Mirae Scientists Street view the first full moon in lunar January.



People across the DPRK celebrate *Jongwoldaeborum*, the first full-moon day in lunar January.

SCENIC SITE

Turtle Rock

There is a small rock which looks like two turtles lying with their faces down on a large rock at Yaksandongdae which is two kilometres west of Nyongbyon County town, North Phyongan Province.

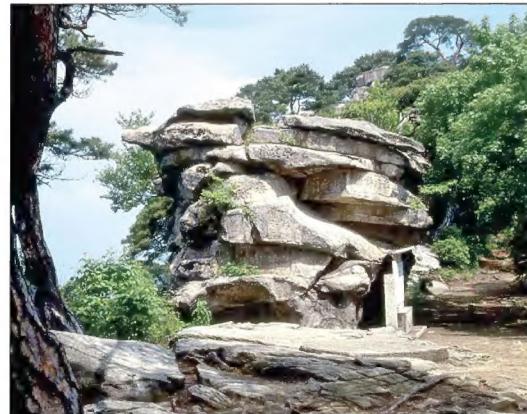
The rock, called Turtle Rock, is 3.5 metres long and 3 metres high and its top has an area of 10 square metres. It was formed through a long time of erosion and denudation of plate-

shaped cleat in granite rock that belongs to the Tanchon rock complex in the Jurassic period of the Mesozoic era.

On the surface of the rock, two stone turtles which seem to be trimmed by a stonemason sit towards the west.

Registered as a natural monument, the rock adds beauty to the scenery of Yaksandongdae.

By Kil Chung Il PT



Turtle-shaped rock at Yaksandongdae.

HERITAGE

Hot spring traces back nearly 600 years

The Korean people have long used hot springs for treating diseases and promoting health.

According to such old records as *Rijo Sillok* (Chronicles of the Feudal Joson Dynasty) and *Tonguibogam* (Encyclopedia of Traditional Medicine of Korea), the Korean ancestors had a good grasp of pharmacological effect of hot spring and used it for the treatment of diseases.

The remains of the Kalsan Hot Spring Bath House in Kudang-ri, Phangyo County, Kangwon Province testify to the fact.

The hot spring is a simple radon spa and has been well known for its high efficacy in the treatment of skin diseases, neuralgia, chronic gastritis, arthritis and others.

An indoor bath house site, the remains are divided into the site of the building and four bathtubs inside.

Seen at the building site are granite cornerstones and platform stones and two bathtubs symmetrically installed on both the eastern and western sides.

Each bathtub is connected to a conduit made by cutting the surface of

long granite pieces in a semicircular way.

The gravity-fed supply system carried water to the bathtubs from the spa wells not far from the bath house.

Sejong Sillok (Chronicles of King Sejong) (1419-1450) says that King Sejong, the fourth king of the

feudal Joson dynasty, had received a medical treatment at the Kalsan Hot Spring.

At present there remains the site of temporary palace scores of metres northeast of the remains of the old hot spring bath house.

Historical data show that the remains of the Kalsan Hot Spring Bath House date back over 570 years.

Now the Kalsan Hot Spring Sanatorium stands near the remains.

Compiled from KCNA

15th-century world atlas

Chonhado, or a world map, is the oldest world atlas so far known in Korea.

It was drawn in the mid-15th century. It is also called *Chonhajyido*.

The atlas is a folding screen of 13 pieces and each piece is about 27cm long and 33cm wide.

The scales of the maps differ from one piece to another according to the regions shown on them.

Marked on the atlas are the four directions of east, west, north and south, positions of land masses and seas of the world, characteristics of main rivers, islands, deserts and forests and names of countries.

Seas and rivers are marked light blue, mountains brown or dark blue, and the capitals of countries and names of county- and above-level administrative units of Korea in different colours with symbols.

The atlas is partly inaccurate in content due to the limitations of the time and immaturity of geographical knowledge, but it is believed to be an invaluable material in understanding history, geography, cartography, xylography and level of mixing colours of various countries in the East at that time.

Compiled from KCNA

